

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Claim 1 (original): A light modulator, comprising:

    a plurality of modulator elements arranged substantially in parallel,

    wherein:

        each modulator element includes:

            an optically active portion; and

            a support portion on either side of the optically active portion, wherein the optically active portion has a narrower width than the support portion.

Claim 2 (original): The light modulator of claim 1, wherein:

    the optically active portion remains substantially flat while deflected.

Claim 3 (original): The light modulator of claim 2, wherein:

    the optically active portion further includes upper and lower surface areas having substantially equal optical energies.

Claim 4 (original): A movable membrane for light modulation, comprising:

    a substantially circular optically active portion; and

    a released membrane portion surrounding the circular optically active portion, wherein:

        the substantially circular optically active portion includes a plurality of gaps configured to expose a lower surface.

Claim 5 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 4, wherein:  
the substantially circular optically active portion remains substantially flat  
while deflected.

Claim 6 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:  
an area of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of gaps is  
substantially equal to an upper surface area.

Claim 7 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:  
an optical energy of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of  
gaps is substantially equal to an upper surface optical energy.

Claim 8 (original): A micro electromechanical system (MEMS) device capable of  
light modulation, the device comprising:  
a membrane configured to be controllably deflected;  
a support structure configured to support the membrane;  
an optically-active portion of the membrane that is reflective and configured to be  
illuminated;  
a non-optically-active portion of the membrane between the optically-active  
portion and the support structure; and  
a plurality of gaps in the optically-active portion of the membrane.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 8, further comprising:  
a substrate below the membrane having reflective areas under the plurality of gaps.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein the non-optically-active membrane  
portion is substantially larger in area than the optically-active membrane portion.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 10, wherein the optically-active membrane portion bends less than the non-optically-active membrane portion when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11, wherein the optically-active membrane portion remains substantially flat when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 13 (original):. The device of claim 9, wherein the gaps in the optically-active membrane portion are configured so that substantially equal optical energies are reflected from the membrane and from the substrate below the membrane.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13, wherein both the optically-active membrane portion and the reflective areas under the gaps are covered with a same reflective material.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14, wherein the reflective material comprises aluminum.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 8, wherein the membrane comprises a compliant material from a group of compliant materials including polymeric materials, metals, polycrystalline materials, and amorphous materials.

Claim 17-20 (cancelled)